- Questor Project BBS
- Special Pullout Section
- Desktop Publishing
- Copyright Revisions
- Editorial on BCSA
- And Much Much More!

DIGITAL EXPRESS

A Telecommunications/Computer Magazine.

September, 1987 Vol. 1, No. 3 $1.00

CJOR interviews BBSers

VANCOUVER SYSOPS formed a panel recently on CJOR open-line radio, hosted by John Wilson — himself an on-line computer 'fanatic.' Back (L to R): Larry Phillips of Compu-Serve, Steve Pershing of Questor Project, Harry Vander Molen of Oneiro's Oracle, Larry Lindner from Digital Express, John Wilson. Front: Dave Allen of Mind Link (see story — page 4).

editorial

DIGITAL EXPRESS
A Telecommunications Computer Magazine

PUBLISHER/EDITOR: Larry Lindner
PRODUCTION: Digital Express Publishing Co.
ADVERTISING CONSULTANT: Al Ferguson
CIRCULATION/COLLECTIONS: Vanessa Vortex
TYPESETTERS: Cen-ta Office Products & Nootka Graphics

Potential quietly bubbling . . .

Since agreeing to membership in British Columbia Sysops Association (BCSA) as sysop of Oneiro's Oracle BBS, we have not heard a peep from the British Columbia Sysops Association (BCSA).

As Digital Express, we offered the BCSA up to one page every issue to be used as it saw fit -- and again, not a peep!

Sysops carry a high profile in the BBS community, yet like the BCSA they continue to sport a cloak of invisibility. This is unfortunate because now is the time for bulletin boards locally to come together and begin the process of growing up.

The BCSA has to get its act together now or step aside and let another organization do the job. If it takes a membership fee to get the wheels in gear, then charge it because the advantages of a sysops association are numerous.

For example, the BCSA could organize an advertising campaign which utilizes members BBSs, and charge a fee for this service. The money could then be used to promote the BCSA and enhance the use of telecommunications in the computer community.

This would also justify a membership fee.

If advertisers saw a list of BBS users, undoubtedly, they would be impressed!

These ads could be changed on a regular basis, perhaps monthly, with administration handled by the BCSA.

What else? Well, the BCSA could keep available a list of the best BBS software for all computer types, and make recommendations to old and new sysops interested in either updating or starting a BBS using new software.

The BCSA might consider policing Vancouver BBSs. We all know a few BBSs feature or even operate using pirated software. Policing ourselves is superior to having it forced upon us.

When the association was formed we were promised help for sysops struggling with software/hardware problems. This has been done.

Now, the BCSA would do well to step into a leadership role quickly. The executive members must get together, make decisions, stand up and let the rest of us see what they have to offer.

We need to see some flash and dazzle! We can't put our collective trust into an organization that does nothing, no matter how much we need what it claims to stand for.

reaction our readers speak

Computer swap meet to be held

Dear Editor:

It is our pleasure to announce the 1987 Pacific Coast Computer Fair Association (PCCFA) fair/swap meet will be held this fall.

Our membership currently represents 12 local Computer User Groups, and we hope to have representatives from all Lower Mainland organizations.

Club participation in planning this year's fair will guarantee a place for self-promotion and for members to show off their expertise.

This year's Fair/Swap Meet will be held at McPherson Convention Center in Burnaby, 7325 McPherson Avenue, October 17,from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Objectives of the PCCFA are:

To organize and administer Computer Fairs, Swap Meets and other computer related events;

To act as an umbrella association for personal computer user groups in greater Vancouver and outlying areas;

To promote personal computer enjoyment and awareness in greater Vancouver and outlying areas;

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DIGITAL EXPRESS
A Telecommunications Computer Magazine
Founded: January 1, 1987
Vol. 1, No. 3, August, 1987
Subscription Rate: 12 issues/$10

DIGITAL EXPRESS is produced in Canada by Canadians and is published 6 times yearly. Mailing address: #501, 4288 Grange St., Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1P2. Phone: 438-8870 (leave message/voice line), or 430-4419 (Oneiro's Oracle BBS/computer line).

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2nd Class Mail Registration number application presently being processed.

AD COPY ERRORS must be brought to publisher's attention within 10 days of publication. Digital Express is responsible for adjustment of advertising cost only in portion of ad where error occurred. Digital Express reserves right to refuse advertising in cases where best interest of the BBS community at large might be involved or where ethics of the advertiser and/or his product might be in question. This is totally at discretion of publisher.

LETTERS: The views, statements and opinions expressed by writers of Digital Express are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of staff or advertisers. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but may be edited. Write: Digital Express, #501, 4288 Grange St., Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1P2. Include voice phone number for verification of letter's authenticity. We look forward to hearing from you!

DIGITAL EXPRESSIONS: The following terms are regularly used throughout this publication: Baud rate — speed of data transfer; BBS or board — Bulletin Board Service; Chat — real-time keyboard communication; Log on/off — connect/disconnect with BBS/computer; Sysop — system operator of a BBS.

— OUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE —

CJOR hosts BBS radio program

Bulletin boards were the topic of a recent CJOR talk show hosted by John Wilson, June 21 from 9-10:30 a.m.

Guests included Larry Phillips of Compu-Serve, Dave Allen of Mind Link, Steve Pershing of Questor Project, Harry Vander Molen, co-sysop of Oneiro's Oracle, and Larry Lindner, Digital Express editor and publisher.

The show was geared toward an audience unfamiliar with BBSing and seemed well received by the public.

Despite the early hour airing, call-in response built up steadily.

Callers were curious about the future of modeming, how to access the stock market cheaply via modem, and questions were asked about various BBSs.

Harry Vander Molen was singled out for his long hours of work putting together the BBS list carried by Digital Express (see centre pullout section) and over 50 BBSs in Vancouver.

B.C. Tel offers discount

Discounts of 50 percent are now available to the hearing-speech-impaired who use electronic or acoustically coupled Telephone Devices for the Deaf (TDDs).

Available since June 1, the discount will apply to direct dialed calls made by residence customers of B.C. Tel to areas served by member companies of Telecom Canada.

This discount has been available for calls placed within the province since 1981.

TDDs are combination keyboards and display printers that enable hearing- or speech-impaired people to communicate over the telephone.

LETTERS — From Page 3

To act as an advocate for the personal computer user community;

To recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the computer user community; and,

To encourage computer education.

We are a non-profit organization, and there are no annual dues.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in the PCCFA, please contact Dave Allen at 270-0064 or Steve Cleverley at 929-5519.

The only requirement is that you are a member in good standing of a Computer User Group.

We meet at Microtel Pacific Research in Discovery Park near SFU on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Please call for details or directions.

Dave Allen and Ronn O'Connor
Directors, PCCFA

Gift Subscriptions

Why not NOW!

#501, 4288 Grange St., Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1P2

Mind Link preview period extended

Mind Link BBS has been offering a free preview of its multi-featured system for all of June and till July 12.

Described as a powerful BBS, Mind Link is easy to use with on-line help available for every feature.

When connected to the BBS, hit carriage return until a prompt is sent. Sign in as 'Guest' and apply for access.

"It is that easy!" says sysop David Allen.

Voice validation will follow, allowing free access for all of June and into part of July.

The system features six incoming phone lines, over 100 megabytes of hard drive space, and more than 20,000 messages posted on dozens of interesting topics.

Mind Link BBS is available 24 hours a day at 533-2312 or 278-5543, 300/1200/2400 baud.

MS-DOS 3.3 has bug

Paul Porter of the Vancouver PC Users' Group has reported a problem with the recently released MS-DOS 3.3.

He says disk caching programs (for speeding up reading and writing to disk) run on the new system cause problems -- some catastrophic.

COMBINE COMPUTER TRAINING WITH A SEASIDE VACATION . . .

3 DAYS!

OF COMPUTER WORKSHOP/OUTDOOR RECREATION IN PICTURESQUE **CRESCENT BEACH!**

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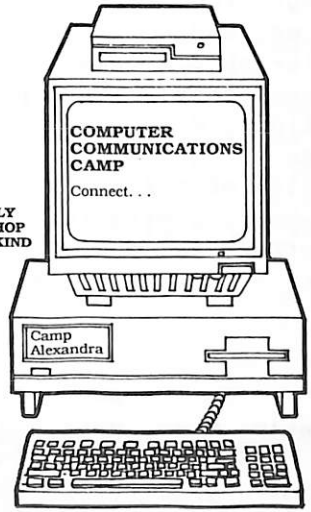


THE ONLY WORKSHOP OF ITS KIND

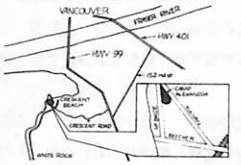
LEARN HOW TO:

- CHOOSE A MODEM
- GET **FREE** SOFTWARE
- USE ELECTRONIC MAIL
- ACCESS DATA BASES

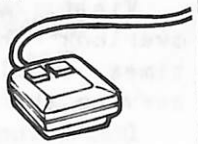
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Call 270-0064
or WRITE:
Know Technologies Inc.
9651 Alexandra Road,
Richmond, B.C. V6X 1C6

BACK SPACE

BE AT CAMP ALEXANDRA BETWEEN 8:30 and 9:30 am on Saturday August 1st for registration.



From Highway 99 or the King George Highway, look for the White Rock exits. Follow Crescent Beach Road until the Railroad Tracks. Turn right on Sullivan Street and proceed 3 blocks. Camp Alexandra is between McBride and Sullivan Streets.



Sponsors Include :

- Camp Alexandra
- Know Technologies Inc.
- Avocado Communications
- MIND LINK BBS
- DeCent Communication Society

AUGUST 1, 2, & 3, 1987

PERSPECTIVE . . .

How to find the best deal!

by John Brohman

John Brohman is a long-time regular caller on many respected local BBSs. He especially enjoys political discussions and belongs to a user group in Maple Ridge.

Good prices on computers and accessories are available this time of year, which is when to purchase a new system or upgrade an existing one.

When shopping for a system, the most important aspect is not price, but the dealer. These are some guidelines to follow when choosing a dealer.

REPUTATION

Do not rely solely on the dealer's ad copy. The most valid and powerful advertising is word-of-mouth. Talk to other users and find out their opinions of a dealer and ask for recommendations. Contact local user groups and get their feedback. Leave messages on BBSs.

There is a lot more to finding a good dealer than picking out full page ads from the newspaper.

BIGGER IS NOT BETTER

Visit several dealers. Don't overlook the smaller ones. Many times smaller outlets offer better service than larger ones.

Don't be dazzled by a lot of 'glitz.' Ask questions. Find out how knowledgeable the staff is about their products.

Be wary of anyone spewing a lot of techno-gab. A knowledgeable salesperson should and must be able to converse in plain English.

SERVICE

In the computer business, customer service begins before the sale and continues afterwards in the form of customer support.

A good computer dealer is willing to take time to determine exactly what your computer needs and expectations are, also attempting to stay within your budget.

A dealer should offer a full range of support products for your new system, including product-specific books, magazines, accessories, and software.

A dealer should be able to answer common questions regarding system installation. Some dealers will go so far as to actually give on-site installation of the system.

Ask about system training. Many dealers offer lessons to help new users become familiar with their systems.

PRICING

Price is an important consideration when buying a system, butdon't let it be the major determinant. One should shop for price alone if, and only if, he knows exactly what the product does, how to use it, and what to do when things go wrong.

Trojan horse reaching new levels

The Trojan horse is still alive and well, unleashed against unsuspecting computer users by what The New York Times describes as 'a new breed of vandal.'

The culprit sabotages computer bulletin boards with sophisticated programs that erase and scramble computer files.

Called Trojan horses, the programs pretend to be something useful -- a word processor or a game program -- but instead erase or scramble data.

The vandals use phone links to transfer destructive programs to BBSs, hoping to fool people into using them.

The practice is stirring mistrust and anger among business people, academics and hobbyists who exchange free computer software on BBSs. No reports have been made locally regarding such programs.

Trojan horse programs first appeared several years ago and have now reached a level of sophistication that allows some to outfox computer experts who are on guard for them.

Some of these programs begin their destruction immediately, but others perform as legitimate software for weeks or months, then touch off an electronic time bomb.

"The hacks who write Trojans are simply mean-spirited and malicious," said Columbia University assistant math professor, Dave Bayer.

Those writing and distributing Trojans are as anonymous as a prank phone caller.

Defences against Trojans include software that alerts users to suspicious activity -- but there is even a program that guards against Trojans!

"It's actually a time bomb that will wipe out your hard disk after it's more than 70-percent full," said Eric Newhouse, an 18-year-old computer expert in Los Angeles.

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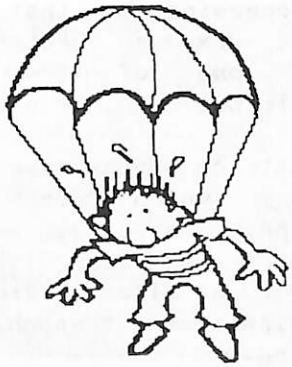
DROP IN FOR FRIENDLY SERVICE
& COMPETITIVE PRICING
"See and Compare"



FRIENDLYWARE
COMPUTERS INC.
437-3113
3499 Kingsway, Vancouver, B.C.

DESKTOP PUBLISHING . . .

PC Users' Group hosts panel

A desktop publishing panel held recently by the PC Users' Group was attended by over 100 people.

The panel, televised several times over the local cable channel, included: Blair Allsopp, Microsoft; Daniela Birch ,Aldus; Lance Bracken, Coast Computers; Tim Attrich and Bob Gerard, Hewlett Packard. Master of Ceremonies was handled with flair by Paul Porter, and the projection system was loaned by Michael Brennan of Applied Electronics.

The discussion covered many general aspects of desktop publishing.

Daniela Birch described desktop publishing as inexpensive, easy to use, highly controllable integration of text and graphics -- near typeset quality.

She said it was different from word processing in that it melds text and graphics together through use of one of two formats: electronic paste-up, or preset style sheets.

Tim Attrich spoke about scanner technology which can take a photograph, graphic, text of combination and read it directly into the PC as files. These can then be manipulated through desktop publishing.

Blair Allsopp added that desktop publishing is a multitude of applications used to accomplish publishing of a document. He said it was the wrong tool, for example, to use in writing a novel.

The panel discussed the 'learning curve,' Lance Bracken stating that it still takes talent to know what is appropriate, comparing learning layout to photography.

Allsopp suggested anyone learning desktop publishing should first "know your weaknesses, and work on those."

Paul Porter observed that learning is going both ways now -- creative people learning about computers, and computer people learning about creativity, for example, in layout.

Attrich said when buying a laser printer, make certain it has at least 512K, and an additional meg for high resolution.

He said the minimum is 1/2 meg, "but you want one to two megs."

The panel covered many more technical points and finished off with a demonstration of two PC desktop publishing 'solutions.'

GOT A BEEF?

WE WANNA KNOW!

Write us Today.

Digital Express

#501-4288 Grange St.
Burnaby, B.C. CANADA
V5H 1P2

Workshop slated for Aug. 1, 2 and 3

The inviting combination of a computer communications workshop and a holiday August weekend at Crescent Beach in White Rock is being offered to novice computer and modem users August 1, 2 and 3.

The event is to be hosted at Camp Alexandra and is designed to introduce personal computer owners and users to the basics of on-line communication.

Enrolment, while limited, is open to members of computer user groups, personnel of non-profit organizations and the general public.

The three days of workshops will be led by local telecommunications professionals, including Larry Phillips, Charles Lindsay and Bryan Bedford.

They will be presenting primers and evaluations of hardware and software that is available today, as well as a look at what will be happening in the near future.

Other topics to be covered include how to get free software, up/downloading, electronic mail, database searching and on-line etiquette.

Ample opportunity will be made available for assistance and hands-on experience with various on-line services.

Camp Alexandra is a beach-side retreat with recreational facilities and simple, camp-like accommodation.

The computer communications camp is sponsored in part by Know Technologies and The Mind Link BBS (see ad elsewhere in Digital Express).

'Dear ASCII' delayed

Due to circumstances beyond our control, Yellowbeard's Dear ASCII column has been deferred to next issue.

Readers are invited to write Yellowbeard care of Digital Express, #501, 4288 Grange St., Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1P2. Questions or topic suggestions are most welcome.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Digital Express

#501, 4288 Grange St., Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1P2

THE GREAT BYTE COMPUTER TRADE-IN PROGRAM

The following trade-in allowance will be given towards the purchase of any new Macintosh or Apple GS bundle with a suggested retail value of at least $3500!

TRADEUP

Apple //c, Monitor, Stand	$ 700
//c, Colour Monitor, Stand with 2nd drive	850 900
Apple //e, Monitor, 1 Drive	900
//e, Monitor, 2 Drive	950
Apple // Plus, Monitor, 1 Drive	650
// Plus, Monitor, 2 Drive	700
Macintosh 128K	900
Macintosh 512K	1100
Macintosh 512K Enhanced	1300
Macintosh Plus	1800
IBM PC Compatible	1000

TRADEUP

*** BONUS*BONUS*BONUS*BONUS*BONUS***

If you bring in proof of purchase that the computer was originally purchased from BYTE of Vancouver, a further $100 credit will be applied to your purchase

BYTE COMPUTERS 2151 BURRARD ST.

Late-Nite to return on-line

The up-again down-again Late-Nite BBS will soon be on-line after being down the past six months.

"Yes," said self employed Richmond dentist, Mark Sicherman (see Digital Express, Vol. 1, No. 1), "I know that I said it would not re-appear, but owing to a certain . . . desire that I have for (solving) programming problems, I've put the board back on-line and have improved it dramatically.

"The system is currently larger, faster, and far more flexible than ever before, and, it is my opinion that you will find features available that will truly surprise you. Features such as a macro record/ playback to allow you to record your own personal BBS session and play it back at your leisure.

"Like a selective filter to allow you to read ONLY those messages that you find of interest. Like on-line trivial pursuit and an unlimited number of voting topics."

Late Nite is run on an IBM PC in an MS-DOS operating environment. The operating system will change to OS-2 (Novell) in mid-December.

The BBS has 20 megs of on-line storage and 1.4 megs of available RAM.

The board was written by the sysop in a combination of Clipper, C, and assembler. Final code size for the program, including buffers, index tables and data space is approximately 213K.

This includes 139K of library functions and routines, as well as a time-slicing shell routine.

The system can index all of its files (approximately 40), composed of several thousand records in a little under 30 seconds.

Time lapses between modules of the program are evident in some areas (in the order of 1/2 second) and are due to either the loading of overlays or the opening of databases.

The system will allow up to 20 files to be open concurrently to 2 users (the board should switch to multi-line as the finances of the sysop permit).

Although 20 files CAN be open, there are never more than 6 or seven open at once.

Sicherman has a keen interest in dBase, Clipper, and C, and invites all of those who share these interests to let him know so that a Clipper users group could be organized on the board.

So . . . what is this 'shareware?'

Hardware. Software. Even Tupperware. These are all commonly used and easily understood words.

But shareware?

Simply, it is a concept that sees software authors distributing their labour for free in hopes that those who make use of it will send payment.

Distribution is either by circulating copies on disk, or making the program available for downloading via bulletin board.

september bbs listing . . .

— courtesy of harry vander molen —

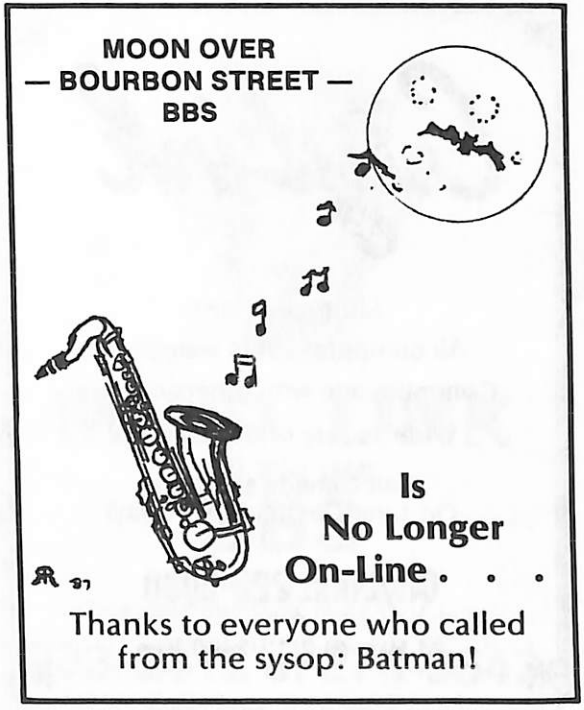
Payboard: $.(NUMBER)

NAME (SYSOP)	NUMBER
A&B Sound BBS	321-5143
The Abacus (J. Gyulasi)	985-2890
Able's BBS	524-5744
Advantage (Red Ryder)	430-2442
Agora BBS (D. Lochhead)	463-4811
Airspace Society	270-6475
Apex (Masked Magician)	321-4581
Apple Peelers (Maverick)	437-9222
Arcadia (Wild Strike)	538-1074
Arcane Bimmer (Enchanter)	875-9788
Audiomat (T. McGuiness)	263-8487
Basic'ly (Bob Satti)	584-9811
Bearcub's BBS (Bearcub)	879-0693
The Beast Board (Pets!)	585-7391
Binary Stock Exch.	266-1531
Blue Hell (Beelzebub)	926-8192
Bottom Line	583-1085
Broadway BBS (B. Knipe)	435-9427
Burnaby (Kevin Smith)	524-9564
Buster's Mansion (Joe)	931-6968
B&B's (Commodore Man)	985-5042
Caesar's Den (B. Harrison)	591-3020
Call of the Wild	597-1964
Castle ARRGH (Yellowbeard)	327-9494
Castle of Darkness	682-7676
Catalyst (B. Bedford)	872-6968
Cen-Ta BBS (S. Laurence)	984-9388
Cirrus (Mike McCloud)	535-1382
CityLink (Steve Barer)	$.222-2000
Cocotech (Capt. Goodnight)	596-1243
CommNet (Chris Austin)	594-5954
Commodore (G. Hazlewood)	271-1082
Comm-Only (J. Gyulasi)	987-3408
Compudome (Mr. Micro)	464-6716
Compuserve	$.738-5157
Computer Kitchen (Recipes)	538-3839
Compu Zone BBS	733-6432
Comstar	521-0886
Country Corners (Piper)	534-9154

Thanks for helping

Special thanks for help seeing this issue of Digital Express put to bed must go to Cen-ta Office Products, Sean Laurence, David Alavoine of Polaris Design, Nootka Graphics, Harry VanderMolen, Mark Sicherman, and Alan Ferguson -- without whom, this issue would have suffered.

Many thanks . . .



Crunchy Frog (B.R. Man)	937-5132
Dataline (Earl England)	589-3257
Datanet (Kevin Gillett)	299-9196
Datapac #1	$.689-8601
Datapac #2	689-8003
Datapac	687-7144
Deep Cove (Wayne Duval)	929-6183
or	682-6283
Delta 80 (C. Lindberg)	585-0680
Dial-a-File (S. Fairbairn)	879-3453
Digital Matrix	589-0079
Domain (The Visionist)	986-0310
Dorean (B.C.I.T.)	432-8579
Dragon's World (D. Lord)	583-1536
Ed net - user code (V.S.B.)	734-3282
Electric Company	273-5394
Fort Fantazia (Scottie)	888-5105
Farthest Reach	980-9886
Fast 80 #3 (D. Cooper)	738-2773
Fast Plus Master	594-7398
First Source (Ertzinger)	253-4312
FORTH Board (J. Brown)	434-5886
Frog Hollow (D. Bowerman)	937-0906
The Funny Farm	929-8812
Genie (Use half duplex!)	$.437-7313
Greenwood II PAE/BBS	438-1329
Hacker's (George Scurr)	589-0683
Haunted House (P. Ford)	581-6087
Hav Info (No password req.)	682-1991
Hem Board (Ken Sterdan)	929-3776
Hilltop Exchange (M. Ray)	521-0281
Images (Karate Kid)	261-4495
INET 2000 #1	$.1-800-663-0471
INET 2000 #2	$.1-800-662-1911
Jacks or Better	939-1149
Lazy Bear's Den	291-2226
Leetec Info Serv. (T. Lee)	987-3799
Lit. Bd. of Horrors	261-2540
Mind Link (Reiter/Allen)	$.533-2312
or	278-5543
Mind Meld BBS	438-7885
Moonstar (S.J. Smythe)	434-4945
Multitech (MicroProFessor)	733-1383
Non-Smoker's (Dale Jackman)	270-0109
Northern Lights (A. Wass)	588-0789
Oneiro's Oracle	430-4419
The Other Side	588-7562
Ouija Board (Mr. Manager)	434-8155
Out-law (Daryl & Tyler)	591-3472
PacCom1 (Jim Dean)	666-2981
Pacific Systems Grp.	228-9706
Papier Mache Cafe	530-2357
Parallel Grid (Logic Worm)	589-1249
Peep Hole (Six Inches)	984-4079
Perspective Vortex	888-0052
Phantom BBS (D. Carreras)	939-4857
The Point After	873-9603
Protech (Aylwin Shu)	321-1366
P.U.B.B.S. (Gavin)	526-3389
Questor Project	681-0670

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All computer users welcome.

Communicate with others on-line!

Wide variety of discussions!

Call Canada's Largest
On-Line Community Today!

CityLink: 222-2000

24 Hrs. @ 2/12/2400 Bps

Why not adverti
in Digital

Realm of Shadows I	420-0016
Realm of Shadows II	421-6482
Realm of the Knights	946-8530
Richmond Library	276-2278
The Rubber Room	872-0139
Salvage Exchange	591-9633
Sam Oben (Sam Oben)	879-9871
Sanctuary (Pos. Pay Board)	$.873-2453
Shortcircuit (Pengo)	594-4615
Silver Bullet BBS	873-3640
Smokey Mountain	462-8753
Sota BLUE (Ann Jackson)	683-1914
Sota FAST Plus	688-5061
Speakeasy (Triplx)	435-7699
Spectrum Board	738-7606
Stardust Gallery (Holly)	687-0168
Straightline BBS	731-5060
Sungod Country	943-3358
Sunshine (Bob Cotter)	943-1612
The Swamp (Soaring Eagle)	581-0393
Swingaxle Retreat (Avixen)	597-2459
S.F.U./MTS	294-4180
***Info at	291-3234
T&P Vantari	435-1727
Tandy BBS (Randy Bot)	581-3464
Terminal Bypass	731-2543
Terminal City (Dr. Benway)	731-6966
Time Warp (D. McDonald)	943-0664
The Toy (D&D)	946-7445
The .38 Special	980-3238
T.R.A.C.E. (Bad Sectors)	272-5888
Treasure Island (Aquaman)	984-3679
Tymnet	$.683-7620
UBC Line	228-9051
UBC Net - Fac./students	$.228-1401
UBC Nimnet	$.228-5011
Underworld (Al Capone)	594-9673
Uppal Linc	589-6257
User's Choice (Uncle Clem)	530-4722
Vanc'r PC Users BBS	434-3434
A Wayward Sparrow	984-6984
West End 99 BBS	421-3717

Harry Vander Molen has served as Oneiro's Oracle co-sysop for two years, and has been around the BBS community for three.

This list, which is now available on over fifty BBSs locally, is verified by Vander Molen, who has logged onto all boards listed. For a more detailed listing including temporarily down and some part-time boards, buffer the information from your favorite BBS.

Please report additions, errors or omissions by leaving feedback to sysop at 430-4419 (300 baud, please).

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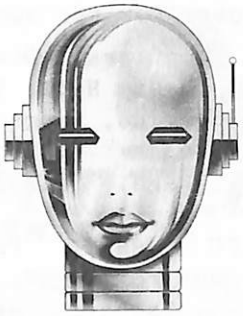

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— bbs and club list —

(just remove this page from staples)

Computer clubs listed . . .

Digital Express called most of the clubs listed here and found that over the summer, they pretty much shut down.

This is a list of local clubs: ACE (Atari), Sam Oben, 872-3354.

Apple Users, Kiyo Masuda, 437-9935. A picnic is apparently planned for August 9, but this group too is closed for the summer months.

Color Computers, Don MacDonald, 435-7652, and Jim Hill, 985-4795.

Commodore Club, recorded message, 738-3311.

Epson Users, Elmer Rudolph, 521-3346.

IBM PC Users, Paul Porter, 733-2008, and Pat Hogan, 987-8296.

Kaypro Users, Jay Siegel, 271-1591.

MacIntosh Users, Kiyo Masuda, 437-9935.

Langley Micros, Ken Beall, 530-2715.

NEC APC Users -- has packed up until fall. This is an informal support group that meets without the formality of elections.

TI99 Users Co-Op, Bruce Ward, 988-5742, and G. Hutchison, 526-1592. This club has been in operation five years now.

Novell Netware, Peter Whitelaw, 669-8789.

Panorama (Amiga) and PCCFA, Dave Allen, 270-0064. Panorama meets twice a month and often has as many as 250 people.

Pick Users, Ralph Turfus, 438-7361.

Portables Club, Wayne Russell, 298-6990.

Trace (Atari), Ron Savage, 942-5445.

TRS-80 Users, Stan Talarczyk, 733-2558.

TSUG Vancouver, Rod Humphreys, 939-9774.

Vanhug, Robert Hudak, 437-7626.

Vantari Users, Stephen Fryer, 984-7898.

West Coast Computer Society, Charlie Gibbs, 255-4485.

We have also come across these other clubs but have no contact people for them. How about dropping us a line?

dBase User's Group, Heath User Group, Amiga Users Group, and Tandy 1000 SIG.

Hackers and hookers blitz phone pagers

TORONTO (Canadian Press) -- Hackers and prostitutes are blitzing the beepers, and their games could wreak havoc with the phone system, paging services say.

By cracking unlisted numbers and security codes of telephone answering services, young computer fanatics are messing up messages for 30,000 to 40,000 Toronto people who carry paging beepers.

Doctors have missed urgent calls that might have meant life or death, and one was reported to have answered thousands of false calls only to get messages such as "This is Roxie -- drop me a line."

"There could be disastrous consequences if this thing spreads," said John Gunning, General manager of National Pagette." If they overload our networks they could tie up phone lines across Toronto."

Pagers and their suppliers are discussing computer software that might block out rapid random dialing. But so far there appears to be no obvious solution.

The only beeper-hackers police have caught so far are under 12 -- too young to be charged.

"One kid learns the trick and passes it on to the next, and soon everybody and his brother is doing it," said Staff Insp. Ian Maar.

Prostitutes are also learning the tricks -- and hustling by phone.

"They (hackers) first hit us in Montreal a few years ago," said John Lang, president of National Pagette, Canada's largest paging network. "Last November and December it started in other cities -- Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary. Now it amounts to a crisis situation."

Recently, he said, several prostitutes joined the student invasion.

Moving?

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NEW BBS . . .

Questor Project offers unique service

For the latest news on what's available in new computer software or hardware for your PC, Apple, Mac, Atari, or Amiga . . . call the Questor Project BBS!

This local board is primarily a Technical Information Service (TIS) BBS, and officially operates in this capacity for the British Columbia Sysops Association (BCSA).

Information is also available on IBM-PC's and clones; Apples and Macs; and Amigas and Ataris. Each of these categories are further broken down into hardware, software, and miscellaneous news items.

The information is accessed from 17 file areas, with articles gathered from various news sources, including news wires from satellite feeds and various academic computer network forums.

Questor Project staff scan over 3000 news articles daily. From this initial scan, approximately 200 news articles are selected for a keyword search which generally results in 5 to 20 articles being added to the database daily.

As well as providing a free TIS with hundreds of articles of use to individuals, programmers, technicians, engineers and businesses, the Questor Project also supplies news items from news services around the globe in the following subject areas: science news; high-technology news; late breaking news on AIDS; medicine and health news and warnings; and human interest items.

Often, news items are available before local media are aware of them. (The recent report of the landing of a private plane in the heart of Moscow was available on the BBS about 24 hours before being carried in local news media.

The innovative Questor Project BBS was started by Steve Pershing. He wanted to provide a unique and useful service to the community at large, but saw that there were already many systems around Vancouver and in B.C. in general doing an excellent job of supplying free public domain software to their users.

Steve Pershing was formerly a manager with Gandalf Data, chief engineer at Myrias Research Corporation (a super computer manufacturer), and is presently an independent consultant in the field of 'Telematics' (integrating computers and telecommunications).

The Questor Project relies on donations from its users, and on small profits from the sale to users of various computer-related items such as modems, monitors, and computer systems.

Funds exceeding the monthly maintenance and upgrade expenses are donated to AIDS research.

The Questor Project BBS (681-0670) may be accessed at 300/1200baud, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at (604) 681-0670.

Copyright revisions apply law to 1980s

OTTAWA (Canadian Press) -- The federal government swung out of the horse-and-buggy era recently with new copyright proposals to protect and enhance Canadian creativity from computer programs to choreography to Corey Hart.

Long-sought legislation tabled in the Commons by Communications Minister Flora MacDonald would, for example, help lead to an increase in the two-cents-a-song royalty to songwriters and publishers. There will be tougher penalties for people who illegally duplicate copyrighted works and new forms of protection for some creators.

"This will help fulfil our need as a country for healthy instruments of self-expression that embody our cultural identity," MacDonald said.

The bill, which faces heavy competition in a clogged parliamentary agenda, marks the first attempt to sweep aside the 1924 Copyright Act, created long before the era of compact discs, computers and video cassettes.

More changes in such areas as home taping and broadcast transmission rights will be handled in other legislation planned for the fall, federal officials said.

The major measures of the new bill include:

+ Stiff penalties for copyright crooks with major piracy operations liable to a $1-million maximum fine and a five-year prison term. Minor copyright infringement would be treated as a civil matter with penalties up to six months in jail and a $25,000 fine.

+ Defining computer programs as a literary work, so they are eligible for full copyright protection for the life of the creator plus 50 years.

The heavier penalties and program protection are a major victory for high-tech industries, which have called for some sharp weapons to protect them from software pirates.

+ Stronger and broader powers for the federal Copyright Appeal Board to help settle agreements allowing more copyright owners to collect royalties.

Book publishers and authors, for example, would be given royalty rights for their copyrighted material.

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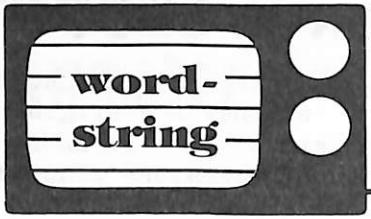

by Larry Lindner

Digital Express has garnered a niche for itself amongst computer users.

The readership has turned out to include mostly older hobbyists and business people, all with a serious interest in telecommunications.

OJ Computers in Richmond hands out Digital Express to anyone purchasing a new modem. The store considers this a service to customers, which shows that our magazine is of special use to new BBSers.

We were recently represented on a CJOR radio forum hosted byJohn Wilson. The hour-and-a-half talk show was well-received by the public and provided Digital Express with glowing publicity.

The amusing part of the interview, to me, is that reaction to the show was good from those who know nothing about BBSing; while reaction from modemers at Terminal City (731-6966) glowed with negatives. Everything from choice of guests to the time
the show was aired was criticized. All I can say to rebuff these comments is to quote an old cliche: never look a gift horse in the mouth.

I think, considering the publicity BBSing has received in the past, the CJOR talk show went off smoothly. None of us are professional public relations people. We met at CJOR and went on-air honestly, with all our wrinkles. I see nothing wrong about that!

MORE NEWS

We heard awhile ago that Broadway Computers BBS (435-9427) was to operate with new software, including a product database expected to grow as need demanded.

The database was to concentrate on cataloguing books and software available for sale (because these are usually the hardest to find), but computers and peripherals were also expected to be listed.

The new software was to include xmodem transfer, an improved mail system, and ability to handle over 1500 transfer files (the present one can handle 250).

This information was posted on Broadway BBS. No news regarding implementation of this new software has found its way to Digital Express, but the board appears recently to have begun steps in the promised direction.

DONATIONS

Some BBSs ask callers to send in donations to cover continued operation of the system.

The Other Side BBS (588-7562) and Questor Project (681-0670) are two IBM boards that actively seek support this way.

Amiga 500 proves popular

The Amiga 500 is a new low priced version of the Amiga 1000, but packaged in a case similar to the Commodore 128.

It comes standard with one 3-1/2 inch internal disk drive, 512K of memory, and is user expandable to a full megabyte internally, and to eight megabytes externally -- for a total of nine megabytes.

The bus expansion is on the right hand side of the machine, as opposed to the A1000 bus being on the left side.

The bus electrically is the same as the A1000, so hardware manufacturers will only have to change the positioning of the product, not the electrical design.

The A500 numeric keypad includes parenthesis, divide, asterisk, plus and minus keys, similar to the IBM PC keypad.

The A500 comes with Kickstart version 1.2 in ROM. At boot, the 'Insert Workbench Prompt' appears.

When new versions of Kickstart come out it will automatically be detected and loaded into RAM. However, a certain amount of available memory will be lost.

This retains ability to run all future as well as past versions of Kickstart.

Power consumption of the A500 has been reduced, leaving more power for devices connected to the computer.

The A500 uses an external power supply like the 64 and 128 machines. The power switch is on the power supply pack, not the computer.

A new version of the Agnes graphics chip, nicknamed 'Fat Agnes,' has been incorporated into the design. Many of the chips assisting the Agnes chip, were eliminated by incorporating them into the Agnes chip.

This was done to reduce the size of the computer as well as to reduce production costs.

Two more custom chips were added, named 'Gary' and 'Buster'. These also were created to reduce the number of chips and cost of production. Even the cost of drilling the holes for the chip pins is taken into account.

The A500 has an expected list of $1100 CDN (not including monitor).

It should now be available.

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A look from the inside . . .

By Cory Muzyka

Cory Muzyka is a computer hobbyist and has been involved in running and maintaining a number of IBM BBSs.

When I first heard rumors of IBM bringing out a new computer, two things worried me: compatibility and expandability.

Each Personal System/2 computer from Model 30 up to Model 80 comes with its own Video Graphics Array. This chip (which is unbelievably small) has a palette of over 256,000 colors, of which 256 can be displayed on the screen at one time.

This is a direct result of the analog monitors that IBM is pushing to be sold with the Personal System/2 models. I have personally seen many pictures -- the best I have ever seen --drawn on the Personal System/2 computer. It is like watching a movie.

The Personal System/2 is also extremely flexible. I have seen a salesperson from IBM take everything out of a fully loaded Model 30 in under 30 seconds.. I would really like to see him do that to fully loaded AT!

The Model 30 is the bottom end of the Personal System/2, but do not count it out!

It has a nickname at IBM; they call it 'The Clone Killer,' as it is low priced and well featured.

It comes with 640K Ram, 80868 mhz, two 720K 3-1/2 inch disk drives, but as I said before, it can be expanded to a 20 meg hard drive, or even IBM's latest innovation: the Optical Disk Drive.

From the bottom of the Personal System/2 line, we go directly to the top . . . all the way up to the big Model 80.

This computer is the ultimate computer. It comes standard with a 1.44 MB 3-1/2 inch disk drive, 44 meg HD and 1 meg of RAM. It is also the most expandable of the line.

A 230 meg Hard Drive is a possibility because the 80 supports two internal drives. It can also adapt to take advantage of the Optical Disk Drive.

The Optical Disk Drive, in case you haven't already heard, is nicknamed the WORM, and for good reason, too.

'WORM' stands for Write Once, Read Many. So with an Optical Disk Drive, a bulletin board program library can be stored on one Optical Disk. The problem would be in Uploads . . . oh, I guess they'd just have to go onto the Hard Disk.

The Optical Disk is also very fast. It can read 2.5 mega bits per second (anyone want to tell me what that means?).

DOS 3.3 comes standard with the Model 30. It does not increase the amount of memory usable by DOS. That is being saved for their release of Model 80 in the summer (I hear).

What it does do is increase the number of serial ports usable by DOS to 4. It also contains 'Additional Open file Support,' which provides capability to support more than 20 open files per process.

Ownership changes

Digital Express Publishing Company is presently changing ownership.

Larry Lindner and Myrtle Winchester opened the business as a partnership, but as second issue hit the streets the partnership was dissolved.

Winchester opted out, and Lindner chose to continue publication. Agreement on changing from partnership to sole proprietorship was eventually worked out, wheels now in motion to bring this to fruition.

BBS is re-named

First was Surfboard BBS. Then Element County (see sysop interview, last issue). Now -- Terminal City (731-6966) -- and as each new name suggests a creative evolution, discussion content has also seemed to keep pace.

Whatever name this BBS goes by, sysop Dr. Benway always retains a reflection of his inimitable self within bounds of his BBS software.

Reconstruction of Terminal City is pretty much complete.

A polling booth is open and the system will probably go 1200 Baud sometime during the summer. Of course, option for 300 Baud will still be available.

Once testing of the file-transfer facility on the second Commodore disk drive is complete, up/downloads of text file materials will be available to regular and preferred users at avery high access level.

Digital Express Publishing Co.

ALAN FERGUSON

Digital Express is pleased to announce the appointment of Alan Ferguson to the position of Advertising Consultant. In this position, Mr. Ferguson will be responsible for all aspects of advertising, as well as assisting clients in achieving maximum impact with their advertisement.

Mr. Ferguson has been involved with the computer industry since 1978. He operated a retail outlet for 3 years. Since then he has had a computer consulting and installation business.

His involvement in the computer community currently includes:

* secretary, Pacific Coast Computer Fair Association;

* advertising manager, Pacific Northwest Amiga Association;

* past treasurer and membership chairman 1984-86, Apple Alliance Users' Group.

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Official Digital Express Message Base: (For Letters to the Editor!) Oneiro's Oracle, Board 5 (or leave feedback) -- (604) 430-4419 / 300 baud.

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